8/15/69

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
The National Archives
Washington, D.C.20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

Your letter of August 13 fails to answer the question, from which files did you make the copy of the autopsy authorization you sent me. I must take issue with your other comments about it. That was not supplied me in response to my request for everything on the autopsy, over which we exchanged considerable correspondence, resulting in the assurance I had had access to everything not still classified. It was not supplied me with the copy of the entire JFK and JBC files I ordered. And if the copy you supplied me is from the JFK 1 files, it is the one paper in that file, to my recollection, that does not bear the file identiciation.

Not only did the National Archives not supply this with the JFK file copies, but if you want to see your agency's letter in which it said there was no copy, I can supply it.

I therefore renew my question, what is the source of the copy of the autopsy authorization you sent me and, if it is now in the JFK files and wasn't there when this file was copied for me, when was it added, by woen and on whose instructions? I bedieve this is a matter of the greatest importance and I do hope you will see to it personally that there is an unequivocal, complete answer.

You say "Copies of all papers relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy that were transferred to the National Archives by the Secret Service have been furnished to you." This is inconsistent with what the Secret Service has told me, I think it only fair to tell you, in writing. And I want you to be aware of the imports of your statement, not the least of which is that the files of the autopsy were purged before they were transferred to the Archives. The items I requested from Admiral Burkeley's receipt must be there, else this happened.

I therefore hope you will personally see to it that this is not a case where an inadequate search was made, that you will assure yourself and then me that the documents I have requested are not, anywhere, in your custody, under whatever file designation.

And specifically, I renew my request, not responded to after a very long delay, for a copy of the Secret Service copy of the autopsy-pictures and X-rays memo, which was transferred to your agency. I would hope, after this very long delay, now more than half a year, that it could be by return mail.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Weisberg